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ACTION NEA-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1090

SUBJECT: REACTION TO RELEASE OF LOWENSTEEN-MOOSE REPORT

1. NO IT COULD BE EXPECTED, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE LOCAL REACTION TO RELEASE OF LOWENSTEIN-MOOSE FINDINGS, EVEN BEFORE TEXT AVAILABLE. WITH PUBLICATION OF FULL TEXT BEGINNING TODAY IN ATHENS PRESS, WE ANTICIPATE EVEN HEAVIER COVERAGE WITH CONTINUING COMMENT ON REPORT FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

2. IN ADDITION TO PRESS REACTION, GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ALREADY MADE TWO STATEMENTS. AT HIS WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 6, UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PALAMAS STATED THAT REPORT "AN INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THE UNITED STATES. WE DO NOT INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OUR FRIENDS AND IT IS NATURAL FOR OUR FRIENDS NOT TO INTER-

FERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF GREECE." COVERAGE OF PALAMAS PRESS CONFERENCE INCLUDED ADDITIONAL STATEMENT, NOT DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE UNDERSECRETARY, THAT "ON THE OTHER HAND ON THE BWUAB OF THE CONSENSUS HDCE THE WHOLE MATTER LACKS SERIOUSNESS."

3. ON MARCH 9, AFTER PUBLICATION OF FIRST HALF OF LOWENSTEIN-MOOSE REPORT IN MORNING PRESS, FOREIGN

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OFFICE ISSUED ANOTHER STATEMENT, FULL TEXT OF WHICH WE HAVE

NOT YET SEEN, DENYING STATEMENT BY LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE
IN THEIR INTRODUCTORY LETTER TO FULBRIGHT THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD
TAKEN INITIATIVE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS
WITH PAPADOPOULOS AND ANGELIS. FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT
AND THIS WAS NOT ACCURATE AND THAT AMERICAN EMBASSY TOOK
THIS INITIATIVE. WE HAVE TOLD UPI CORRESPONDENT WHO HAS
ALREADY INQUIRED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO SEE EXACT TEXT OF
FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT, BUT IN ANY CASE WE VERY MUCH
DOUBTED THAT
WE WOULD HAVE ANY COMMENT/:

4. ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE AND ECCENTRIC AFTER QON DAILY EFKRAD
VIS RUN THREE
EDITORIALS ATTACKING REPORT, LOWENSTEIN
AND MOOSE, AND SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON BASIS
OF PRELIMINARY WIRE SERVICE STORIES AND REPORTS OVER FOREIGN
RADIO. ON MARCH 5, ESTIA QUESTIONED WHO RUNS UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT. WITH MIFIR EMPLOYEES OF SENATE INVESTIGATING
THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT'S REPRESENTATIVES IN GREECE, IT ASSERTED
IT APPARENTLY WAS NOT PRESIDENT NIXON. ON MARCH 6, ESTIA
SAID ATTACKS ON KISSINGER BY FULBRIGHT COMMITTEE
UNDERScored QUESTION OF WHO GOVERNS UNITED STATES.
ON MARCH 8, ESTIA RETURNED TO ATTACK ON "THAT FIFTH
COLUMNIST" FULBRIGHT FOR SENDING INVESTIGATORS TO GREECE,
AS IF HE INDULGING IN PRIVATE FEUD. ESTIA SAID STATEMENT
BY PALAMAS SHOULD
HAVE ENDED WITH FOLLOWING: ZFROM
NOW ON NO VISIT OF SUCH A TYPE WILL BE PERMITTED HERE."

5. NEA POLITIA, WHICH STRICTLY FOLLOWS GOVERNMENT LINE,
CARRIED EDITORIALS ON MARCH 6 AND 7, GIST OF WHICH IS THAT
WASHINGTON CERTAIN TO IGNORE FINDINGS OF LOWENSTEIN AND
MOOSE, AND, IN ANY CASE, WHATEVER GREECE IS GIVEN (I.E.
MILITARY ASSISTANCE) IS GIVEN FOR WHAT SHE OFFERS, AND
NEITHER DISCUSSION NOR ADVICE IS ACCEPTED ON GREEK INTERNAL
AFFAIRS. NEA POLITIA EXPRESSED REGRET OVSA MCCLOSKEY
STATEMENT (STATE 38036) BECAUSE OF IMPLICATION THAT GREEK
INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS CONCERN OF ANYONE EXCEPT GREECE.
NEA POLITIA HOWEVER NOTED THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAD
EMPHASIZED THAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE GIVEN GREECE FOR US AND

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NATO STRATEGIC REASONS. THEREFORE, PAPER CONCLUDED,
FINDINGS OF LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE WOULD PRODUCE NO RESULTS.
ON MARCH 7, ELEFTHEROS KOSMOS, WHICH STRONG SUPPORTER OF GOVERNMENT
ALSO TOOK LINE THAT GREECE INTERNAL AFFAIRS EXCLUSIVE
CONCERN OF GREECE.

6. OPPOSITION PRESS HAS REFRAINED FROM EDITORIA COMMENT,

BUT WE HAVE
HAD INQUIRY

FROM VIMA ATTEMPTING TO ELICIT
COMMENT ON STATEMENTS IN PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS THAT GREECE
HAS ASSUMED NO OBLIGATIONS AS REGARDS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS,
CONTRASTING THEM WITH GIST STATEMENT THAT USG
CONTINUING
TO URGE REGIME TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENT TO ENACT
LIBERALIZATION MEASURES AND PREPARE FOR ELECTIONS." USIS
PRESS OFFICER REPLIED THAT WE HAD NO COMMENT BUT THAT WE
OF COURSE STAND ON DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENTS. MARCH 9
APOYEVMATINI CARRIES USIS RESPONSE IN CONJUNCTION WITH
EXCERPTS FROM MCCLOSKEY BRIEFING UNDER HEADING
"ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE EMBASSY SPEAKS OF OBLIGATIONS."

7. ELEFTHEROS KOSMOS MORNING MARCH 9 ANTICIPATED
OPPOSITION PRESS BY BEGINNING PUBLICATION OF ENTIRE TEXT OF
LOWENSTEIN-MOOSE REPORT. APOYEVMATINI AFTERNOON MARCH
9 ALSO CARRIED FIRST HALF OF REPORT. WE WILL OF COURSE
SUMMARIZE FURTHER SIGNIFICANT REACTION.
TASCA

NOTE BY OCT: ATHENS 1090 AS RECEIVED.
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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